



The Ways We Touch the Community Has an Everlasting Effect

Well this wasn't the way I planned the April article to be. I planned to write to you to thank you for participating in the Census, discuss the Environmental Resource Management bond referendum for the November 2020 ballot and highlight the upcoming Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films. Particularly, I wanted mention how last year the showcase honored the *Lives of two Burts* who made the program a reality: former Palm Beach County Commissioner Burt Aaronson and film legend Burt Reynolds. Things, and people, effecting on our communities in everlasting ways.

That was my plan when the world looked so different. While coronavirus was certainly on our radar, we were not drinking, sleeping and breathing it the way we are today. Even for us seasoned Floridians who can handle a certain degree of uncertainty - this "storm" has run amok! Its lengthy, unnerving, invisible, and even more deadly. This is our reality, and it might be for a very long time.

I wanted to assure you that there are many people working around the clock who share the plethora of concerns pouring into my office and every county, state and federal office by phone and email. Making these hard decisions feels like walking a proverbial tightrope. The County Administrator and her staff are working overtime (and away from their families) to keep our residents as safe as we can. Additionally, Sheriff Bradshaw, Fire Chief Duren and all of their employees are all doing their best to protect every citizen. The County is doing our best in uncharted waters and we know that our residents and business community are doing the same.

I have been so pleased to see so many of you rise to the occasion. Checking on elderly neighbors, getting groceries for them or family and friends, thanking the workers braving the frontlines for our essential needs. I've seen teddy bears in windows so parents can drive their kids around for a "bear hunt". I have been leading by example remaining at home and calling in to meetings for votes. I know this is hard.

Some tips to remember: Take care of yourself - try to eat healthy well-balanced meals; get plenty of sleep; take a walk; stay informed but take breaks from watching and listening to news stories; if you feel overwhelmed talk to a family member, or a friend; connect with family and friends, even if you don't need it, they may.

Thank you for doing your part in helping to stop the spread of this virus for our medical workers and the entire medical system, for members of our society who **will not** live if they get COVID-19 even if you will, and for doing what needs to be done so our businesses can reopen as soon as possible. What we do today will have an everlasting effect.

Vivian, Meaghan, Janet and I are here to help you. Call us at 276-1310 or toll free at 877-930-2205. You may need to leave a message, but you will receive a call back. May you, your family and your friends remain safe and healthy during this difficult time. Please remember: We are all in this together and together we will get past this difficult time.